

CLAIMS

1 1. An audio system for a vehicle, said vehicle comprising a first passenger location
2 and a second passenger location, said second passenger location situated behind said first
3 passenger location, said audio system comprising:

4 a first directional audio channel signal source;

5 a surround audio channel signal source;

6 a first electroacoustical transducer coupled to said first directional audio signal
7 source and to said surround audio channel source, situated behind said first passenger
8 location,

9 said first electroacoustical transducer constructed and arranged to radiate sound
10 waves corresponding to audio signals from said first directional audio channel signal
11 source and corresponding to audio signals from said surround audio channel signal
12 source; and

13 a second electroacoustical transducer coupled to said first directional audio signal
14 source, situated forward of said first electroacoustical transducer,

15 said second electroacoustical transducer constructed and arranged to radiate sound
16 waves corresponding to audio signals from said first directional audio channel signal
17 source.

1 2. An audio system in accordance with claim 1, further comprising a first audio
2 signal scaling device coupling said directional audio channel source and said first
3 electroacoustical transducer, and

4 a second audio signal scaling device coupling said surround audio channel source
5 and said first electroacoustical transducer.

1 3. An audio system in accordance with claim 1, further comprising a second
2 directional audio channel source, coupled to said first electroacoustical transducer.

1 4. A audio system in accordance with claim 3, wherein said second directional audio
2 channel source is a center channel source.

1 5. An audio system in accordance with claim 1, further comprising a third
2 electroacoustical transducer, situated behind said second passenger location, coupled to
3 said surround channel source,

4 said third electroacoustical transducer constructed and arranged for radiating
5 sound waves corresponding to audio signals from said surround audio channel signal
6 source.

1 6. In a vehicle comprising a first passenger location and a second passenger location,
2 said first passenger location situated forward of said second passenger location, a method
3 for operating an audio system having a plurality of directional audio channel signals and
4 a surround audio channel signal, comprising:

5 transmitting a first of said plurality of directional audio channel signals and a
6 surround audio channel signal to a first electroacoustical transducer situated behind said
7 first passenger location;

8 and transmitting said first directional audio channel signal to a second
9 electroacoustical transducer situated forward of said first electroacoustical transducer.

1 7. A method for operating an audio system in accordance with claim 6, further
2 comprising transmitting a second of said plurality of audio channel signals to said first
3 electroacoustical transducer.

1 8. A method for operating an audio system in accordance with claim 6, further
2 comprising scaling the amplitude of said first audio channel signal and of said surround
3 audio channel signal.

1 9. A method for operating an audio system in accordance with claim 6, further
2 comprising transmitting said surround audio channel to a third electroacoustical transducer
3 situated behind said second passenger location.